

MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

December 8, 2008 - MINUTES

In attendance: Council Members: Chairman Jacob Wagner, Tom Peluso, Shelly Johnson, Jerry Johnson, Charlotte Kress, and Lori Marchak; Advocacy Member: Dennis Cox (AMDD), John Watson (MHC Drop In Center), Scott Malloy (MHC) and Andrea Lower (Court Services); Guests: Jana Lehman (MMHA), Betsy Garrigues (KMA), Jodi Hausen (Bozeman Daily Chronicle). Staff: Glenda Howze.

Call to Order and Introductions - 12:07 PM. Chairman Wagner opened the meeting and allowed for introductions.

Public Comment - Mr. Malloy noted that he has three items to discuss at the appropriate time in the agenda. It was determined that this could be done under "Agency Reports." Ms. Kress brought up the recent Chronicle article regarding a Montana Judge allowing physician assisted suicide. She noted that this sends a bad message to our youth. Mr. Johnson noted his disagreement with her comments and further discussion on this topic took place.

Approval of Minutes - Mr. Peluso made a motion to approve the minutes of November 10 as written. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Drop-In Center Update/Advisory Board Business - Mr. Watson gave a detailed report. The Center opened on July 1st. They have had 1425 visitors through the door since the opening. Registration of visitors did not start right away, but as of lately, the Center has been averaging 1 new visitor per day. Ongoing there are approximately 45 people that are active on a monthly basis. They made sure that everyone had a Thanksgiving dinner. There were about 8 that went together to Old Chicago as they didn't have another place to go. Staff is calling members if they have not seen them in two days, some have requested and receive a daily call. The Dual Recovery Anonymous meeting has 13-18 attendees per day and they have had a Saturday meeting as well. There is opportunity for one-on-one consultation with peers - approximately 4 per day. NAMI Connections has a meet every Thursday with approximately 5 in attendance. Six people are going to Helena this week for training in WRAP. Mr. Watson stated that the Drop-In Center really is a crisis center. They act as a de-escalation program. The Center is working on getting food and other needed things from the Community. They are on a very tight budget - there is no play in it at all. Staff is thin. Mr. Watson is full-time and two additional staff members work 15 hours per week (paid) but also contribute many more volunteer hours. Mr. Wagner is giving free haircuts from 2-4PM on Fridays, which is a nice self-esteem booster for many. The Center is receiving referrals from all over and doing peer-to-peer meetings daily. These don't have as much attendance as the one-on-one consults do, but they are beneficial to many.

Report from Chairman Wagner re: Homeless Shelter - No new information on the homeless shelter.

Priority Table Updates - Mr. Malloy presented the conceptual drawings for the new crisis center on the Mental Health Campus. He explained that the building will accommodate three services, voluntary, short-term crisis beds, short-term transitional housing for post-medicaid individuals and secure/detention pre-commitment beds. The voluntary short-term crisis beds will be for non-medicaid, non VA clients that fall into the 72 hour MHSP model. The cost comparison with private hospital inpatient stays are \$1,000-\$1,500 to [our] rate of \$325-\$600 per day. However, private insurance won't pay for the stay at the Hope House at this point. The funding stream for the new crisis residential care facility will be 72 hour (10 days between stays), Medicaid, VA and group home funding. The facility will have 8 beds to start. The numbers support this amount; they don't support a 16 bed facility. It needs to be economically feasible and 8 beds will ensure this. The facility will have the ability to expand. It will have a home feel, not an institutional feel. The

secure/detention pre-commitment beds will be those that would have ordinarily gone to Warm Springs until their hearings. 50% of those that are taken to Warm Springs do not get committed ultimately; hopefully keeping these people in the community will even further reduce the number of ultimate commitments. Mr. Malloy is working with Sheriff's Office on the rules and regulations to make sure everyone is comfortable with how things will work. Mr. Peluso asked if three days is enough to stabilize those in crisis. Mr. Malloy stated that it is generally not and that is why he is advocating for 6 days; however, 75% of those that leave (the Hope House) do so with support services in place. Mr. Malloy noted that this is Phase I of the project. Phase II, III, and IV will include other adult services and the co-locating with other services. Phase II is for transitional housing. The MHC is applying for a federal grant for the supportive housing - this would be long-term housing at reduced federal housing rates. He requested a letter of support from the LAC for the grant request. Mr. Malloy also explained that they are working on implementing CIT in Gallatin County and would like the blessing of the LAC to proceed. Three Sheriff's Officers are trained (as trainers) and one MHC employee is also trained. The Sheriff's Office will make this a "best practice" for their department and it will then become a model for the State in the future. CIT will provide mental health training and tool kits for law enforcement - it is an evidence based practice out of Memphis. Mr. Peluso made a motion for the Gallatin County Mental Health Local Advisory Council to formally support the effort in Gallatin County to establish a CIT program. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Peluso made a motion to offer official support of the housing project and have the LAC sign a letter of support to accompany the federal grant application. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Howze was asked to request a letter of support from the County Commission as well.

Mr. Malloy also reported on the Emergency Services Mental Health meeting that took place in November. Everyone that is involved in crisis service in Gallatin County was invited to the table and most were represented. There will be another meeting in January. This meeting is so that everyone is on the same page, discussing the concerns that affect everyone. Bozeman Police Department admitted that when they were first presented information on CIT they were not supportive but once some of them attended the training and realized that it is not only about consumer protection but also addresses officer and public safety, they became very supportive. Mr. Watson asked if the training will also filter into the Fire Department and Ambulance service. Mr. Peluso stated that it will filter to all first responders. Ms. Lower reported that they are working with 911 Dispatchers to code calls CIT so that the appropriate people respond.

Agency Reports - Ms. Johnson reported that at a co-occurring meeting in Helena, CIT was discussed. She also noted that starting in January, employees of ADSGC and the Mental Health Center will begin cross-training with each other. Ms. Garrigues, KMA, reported that they are continuing to work on funding of the KMA's at the state level. Mr. Wagner noted that it is important to have better linkages and communication between adult and child services. Ms. Johnson reported that recently they had an active co-occurring suicidal 18 year old in the ER and that hospital staff and the CRT did very well in dealing with him.

Other - Mr. Wagner mentioned the recent article in the Chronicle. Ms. Hausen gave a brief history and noted that the article was the first in a series - the second to focus on suicide and a third to focus on substance abuse and co-occurring issues. Mr. Wagner noted that it probably took something up close and personal for the Chronicle and others to decide to investigate and report further. Mr. Cox noted that Karl Rosten of AMDD has the suicide prevention program that is free to all schools if anyone knows of one that is not participating. Mr. Johnson inquired about the statistics of who kills themselves in Montana. Ms. Lehman of the Montana Mental Health Association offered to provide those to him.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM